

HONORING KATHRYN SWANSON

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Kathryn Swanson, a dedicated public servant whose passionate commitment to highway safety has guided her throughout her career.

Kathy has been a leading, influential figure in highway safety for more than 25 years, working tirelessly to save lives and prevent injuries on our Nation's roads.

Since 1998, Kathy has served as director of Minnesota's Office of Traffic Safety in the state's Department of Public Safety. Prior to being director, she served as deputy director, safety program coordinator, and as a research analyst.

As one of the longest tenured members of the state highway safety community, Kathy's counsel is frequently sought by other states and organizations around the country.

In her role as director, Kathy administers the state and community highway safety grant programs in Minnesota. During her tenure, the state has achieved significant progress including an 83.9 percent seat belt usage rate, which is above the national average. The state also achieved its lowest fatality rate ever during Kathy's tenure.

Kathy has also worked tirelessly with her counterparts in the Minnesota Department of Transportation in a true partnership aimed at significantly reducing traffic fatalities in Minnesota. Today the Towards Zero Death program is the keystone of Minnesota's safety agenda, affecting the work of various state and local agencies and private sector partners.

Kathy's success in Minnesota, her strong commitment to highway safety and the respect and support of her state peers led to her election as Vice Chair of the Governors Highway Safety Association (GHSA) in September 2002. GHSA is the nonprofit association representing the highway safety program managers of the states and the territories.

Following a leadership change in March of 2003, Kathy was elevated to Chair of GHSA, a position in which she served until the fall of 2004. Under Kathy's leadership, GHSA developed its positions on the reauthorization of our nation's surface transportation bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy For Users (SAFETEA-LU).

As Immediate Past Chair, Kathy continues her involvement in GHSA. In 2005, she represented the Association at a listening session for the White House Conference on Aging where she discussed the role of the state highway safety offices in enhancing the safety of older drivers. She also represented GHSA at the 2005 launch of the Ford/GHSA Driving Skills for Life teen driving safety program.

Kathy's work has no doubt prevented countless traffic fatalities and injuries in Minnesota and across the Nation. I am proud and honored to share with my colleagues this deserved tribute to Kathy Swanson, who gives so much of herself to enrich the lives of others and to serve her community and her country.

HONORING LANCE CORPORAL
PATRICK T. HOWARD**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to wish a full and healthy recovery to Lance Corporal Patrick T. Howard, who suffered extensive injuries while on guard duty in Iraq on July 18.

Lance Corporal Howard was born and raised in Miami, and enlisted in the Marines directly after graduating from high school. In March of 2006, he was deployed to Ramadi, Iraq, and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Lance Corporal.

I am deeply saddened about the grave nature of the injuries inflicted upon such a selfless young man from South Florida. The entire community is grateful to Lance Corporal Howard for his contributions in the struggle to spread liberty to Iraq, and values the sacrifices of all those currently defending our Nation overseas.

I ask that you please keep Lance Corporal Howard and his family in your thoughts and prayers as he completes the recovery process.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on the following bills on September 6, 2006:

H.R. 2808, the Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act (Rollcall No. 427). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 605, a resolution recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States (Rollcall No. 428). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

H. Res. 875, a resolution congratulating Spelman College on the occasion of its 125th anniversary (Rollcall No. 396). Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE ROBINSON

HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Joyce Robinson of her service to the Social Security Administration and to congratulate her on her upcoming retirement.

Mrs. Robinson began her career in 1975 as a Claims Clerk in the Martinsburg, West Virginia Social Security Office. She has held 7 different positions, reaching the level of Special Disability Workload Cadre Manager in the Charleston, West Virginia Social Security Office.

Mrs. Robinson has been recognized numerous times for her outstanding leadership quali-

ties. Her immense knowledge of programs and great interpersonal communication skills led her to gain the distinction of being a liaison to her peers, as well as, to Congressional Staffs and entities outside the SSA office. She will be greatly missed as a helpful resource to me and my staff.

For her dedication and willingness to serve my constituents, the State of West Virginia, and surrounding states, I offer Mrs. Robinson my most sincere congratulations and best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was attending a National Policy Conference in Los Angeles, and I could not be present, subsequently missing rollcall votes numbered 427, 428, and 429. Had I been present, I would have voted:

"Aye" on rollcall No. 427, H.R. 2808, the "Abraham Lincoln Commemorative Coin Act,"

"Aye" on rollcall No. 428, H. Res. 605, "Recognizing the life of Preston Robert Tisch and his outstanding contributions to New York City, the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States," and

"Aye"—on rollcall No. 429, H. Res. 875, "Congratulating Spelman College on the Occasion of its 125th Anniversary."

IN HONOR OF MARY BOURDETTE

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 7, 2006

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, with a heavy heart, I rise to honor the life of Mary Bourdette.

On September 5th, America lost one of its great champions for children and families. Mary Bourdette was a passionate and dedicated advocate and had an extraordinary 30 year career. Mary's tireless efforts improved the lives of countless children and families across the country.

I will personally miss her friendship, and the Nation will miss her devotion to children's welfare.

I first met Mary in California when she was working on improving education in the state. Mary and I then worked closely together when I chaired the House Select Committee on Children Youth and Families in the 1980's here in the House.

She was a skilled advocate and negotiator and her vision and persistence were critical to my efforts on child welfare policy and numerous other issues. Mary advocated for children and families in many capacities here in Washington, D.C. over the past 30 years. She worked for the Legal Services Corporation to help ensure that our poorest citizens have access to the legal system that our Constitution promises. She later worked tirelessly at the Children Defense Fund on the first major expansion of the Earned Income Tax Credit and